



Elko and Wells Resource Management Plans Fire Management Amendment Newsletter 2

In July 2001, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated work on a Fire Management Amendment (**FMA**) to the existing Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the Elko District. The Elko District is located in northeastern Nevada and includes both the Elko and Wells Resource Areas. Public meetings were held on September 25, 26, 27 and 28 in Elko, Eureka, Jackpot and Wells. The information obtained at these meetings assisted in the development of draft FMA strategies.

Purpose of Planning Effort

This FMA is being developed to provide overall direction as well as define operational procedures for fire management activities within the Elko District. Development of the FMA is being guided by the following goals:

- Provide for the protection of life and property.
- Provide for the protection of habitat required by special status species.
- Provide for safe and cost effective resource protection and enhancement.
- Reduce hazardous fuels.

The BLM Elko District covers 12.5 million acres, of which approximately 7.5 million acres are managed by the BLM Elko Field Office. Cooperative initial attack agreements are in place with the Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Ely, Salt Lake and Upper Snake River Field Offices of the BLM. In addition, there are cooperative agreements with the Elko Interagency Dispatch Center (EIDC), U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF). The Elko Field Office is considered to be one of the highest fire load field offices within the BLM. For the base period 1996 through 2000, the District averaged 32 fires that burned an average of 224,348 acres annually. Although wildland fires can occur on a year-round basis in the Elko District, the primary season extends from May 11 to September 27.



*Air tanker near Elko and Mountain City. August 6, 2001
Photo: Shawn Gibson, Archaeologist, BLM Elko*

Public Scoping Meetings

You are invited to attend public meetings on the Elko/Wells RMP Fire Management Amendment. Four public meetings will be held:

May 20, 2002	May 21, 2002	May 22, 2002	May 23, 2002
Elko, Nevada	Eureka, Nevada	Jackpot, Nevada	Wells, Nevada
High Desert Inn	Eureka Opera House	Cactus Pete's Ballroom	Wells City Hall
3015 Idaho Street	31 South Main Street	1385 U.S. Highway 93	1279 Clover Ave.
Time: 7-9 PM	Time: 7-9 PM	Time: 7-9 PM	Time: 7-9 PM

The public is welcome to attend at any time during the two-hour meeting period. A presentation is scheduled at the beginning of each meeting to provide general information on the planning process. The meeting format is intended to promote interaction and provide opportunities to make written and verbal comments.

Overview of Process/Schedule

The overall planning process has focused on the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA), Biological Assessment (BA), and Fire Management Amendment (FMA). These documents have incorporated public and regulatory comments as well as guidance received through the initial public meetings. The Fire Management Amendment process will be completed within the next 6-month period. Project milestones will include:

- Project Initiation: July 2001
- Data Collection: August 2001
- Public Scoping Meetings: September 2001
- Draft FMA, EA, & BA: May 2002
- Public Meetings on Draft FMA: May 2002
- Final FMA: September 2002

Plan Development

A preferred direction has been identified based on information from a variety of sources, including phone calls, e-mails, public meetings, and letters from individuals and groups.

This proposed action in the FMA is a balanced approach to fire management, providing a range of appropriate strategies for fire management. The proposed action recognizes that wildfire can have a positive or negative influence on resources in the District, depending on geographic location, resources present, land use, fire size, desired vegetative goals, weather and existing fuel conditions.

The FMA uses a number of strategies to address general fire management, fire prevention, fire response and fire rehabilitation on public lands in the District. Implementing these strategies would begin in the year 2002. As illustrated in the attached map, fire response is primarily based on suppression and the protection of resources and property, but also allows some flexibility to use other strategies when appropriate (prescribed fire, fuel reduction, fuel breaks, green strips, clearing, etc.).



*Photo: Bryan Day
National Interagency Fire Center*

The FMA focuses on the integration of fire management strategies to improve the long-term management of fire.

It is anticipated that the upcoming public meetings and other opportunities to comment will lead to additional refinements of the draft FMA.

How You Can Be Involved

Numerous opportunities for public comment are available, including the upcoming public meetings. Anyone interested in this planning effort is also encouraged to visit the project web page at <http://www.nv.blm.gov/elko>. This site will contain information on current project activities and status, as well as a comment form.

Comments may be e-mailed to:

Joe_Freeland@nv.blm.gov

Or you may write to:

**Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Joe Freeland
3900 East Idaho Street
Elko, NV 89801
Or phone: (775) 753-0200**



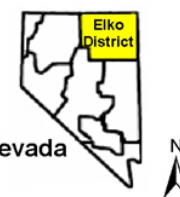
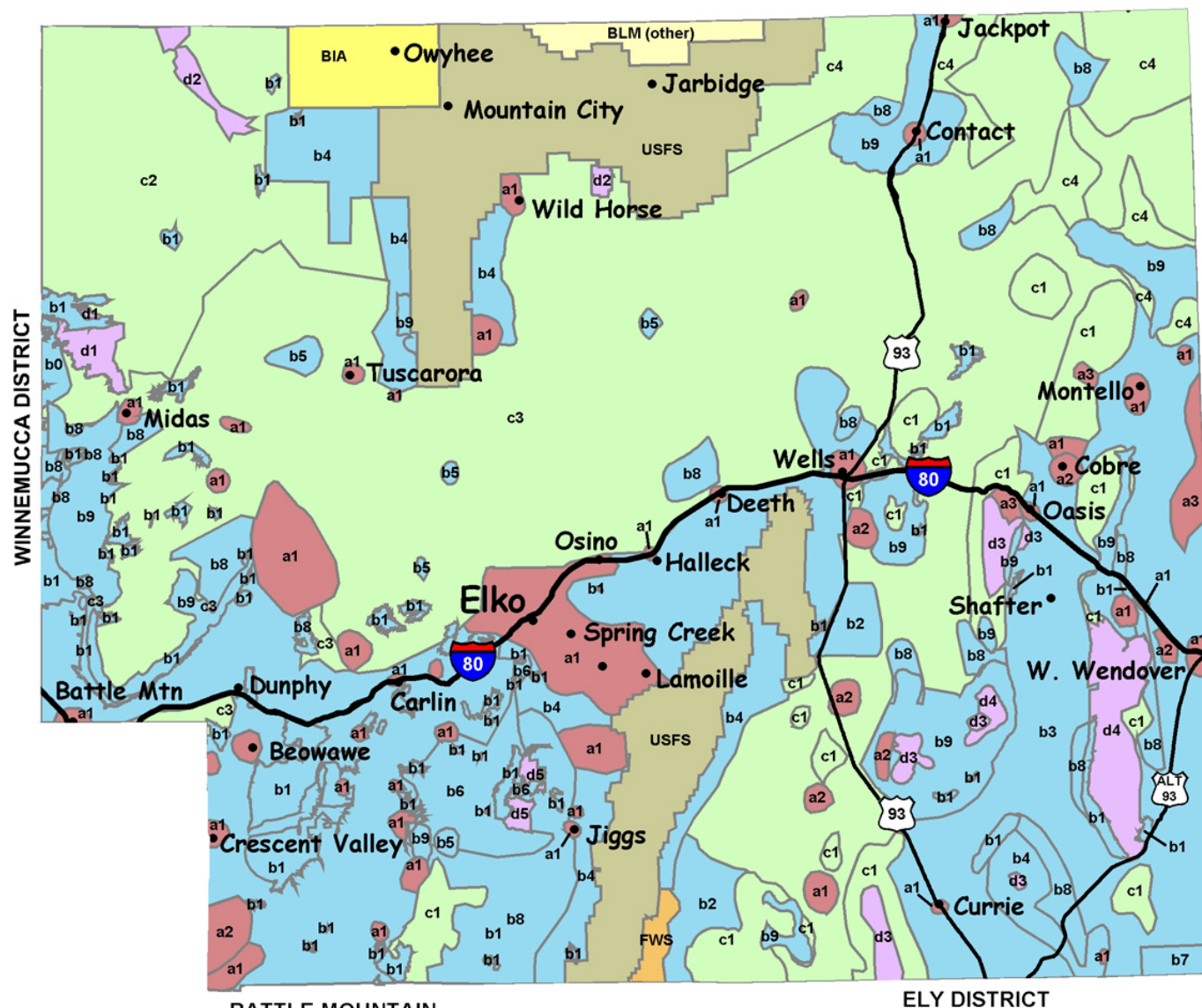
Elko and Wells RMP Fire Management Amendment

Fire Categories

- Area 'A' - Fire not desired - full suppression
- Area 'B' - Fire has negative effect - high suppression
- Area 'C' - Fire has positive or negative effect - moderate suppression
- Area 'D' - Fire has beneficial effect - limited suppression

Other Jurisdictions

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management (other)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service



Nevada

May 2002

Fire Management Unit Names

a1-Urban Interface/Mining/Areas of Development
a2-Cultural Sites, Historic and Protohistoric
a3-Municipal Watersheds
b1-District-wide Areas of Exotic Vegetation Invasion
b2-Ruby Marshes, Franklin Lake and Snow Water Lake
b3-Low Sagebrush and Desert Shrub
b4-Areas of Primarily Private Land and Urban Interface
b5-Aspen Areas
b6-Dixie

b7-Badlands Allotment
b8-Early Seral Sagebrush Grasslands
b9- Crucial Mule Deer Winter Range
c1-Woodlands
c2-Owyhee Desert
c3-Sage/Mountain Brush/Perennial Grass
c4-Intermixed Woodlands, NE Corner
d1-Little Humboldt WSA

d2-Little Owyhee Canyon WSA
d3-Mixed Conifer
d4-Goshute, South Pequop, and Bluebell WSA's
d5-Cedar Ridge and Red Springs WSA's
BIA-Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM (other)- other BLM Administered Lands
FWS- US Fish And Wildlife Service
USFS-US Forest Service